

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 21, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Christopher Warren, Daniel J. Potvin, Michael Denault and Carol Fachini.

Visitors: Barbara Dolle, Helen Fields, Stephen Greene, Bill Levine, Aaron Malachuck, Kristin Malachuck, Lynn Phillips and Pamela Tworig.
Jean Kurpiel, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair.
James Stimpson, Administrative Officer.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., opened with the pledge of allegiance, welcomed everyone and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and discussion of the NEMRC assessor contract was added.

DRIVING ON LAWN DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Deferred. There was no school director or principal present to discuss.

ICE CREAM TRUCK PARKING

1. Nancy Bushika summarized the discussion from the last Selectboard meeting. At a recent Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting the ice cream truck came up and the ZBA decided to contact the town attorney for clarification. Pam Tworig was dismayed that so much discussion has been going on concerning her business. About 23 years ago they stopped having open business hours but she has been selling landscaping materials and products all along. Pam Tworig and Kristin Malachuck submitted a permit application for the ice cream business. Kristin Malachuck contacted the state and no permit is necessary to sell ice cream but she has applied to the state for a permit to sell hotdogs. Sheila Lawrence spoke to James Stimpson, the Administrative Officer, advising that he needed to shut them down because they were in violation due to the traffic hazard created by patrons parking on the road. Jean Kurpiel stated that Sheila Lawrence was speaking as a private citizen, not as part of the ZBA. The Administrative Officer said he would go down and speak to the ice cream truck owners concerning the parking along the Main Road. Dan Potvin agreed that there are a lot of rumors going around. Dan Potvin noted that the vast majority of residents support the ice cream truck business. Jean Kurpiel acknowledged that there is a valid concern for safety with the parking on the road. Pam Tworig supports parking on her property and Kristin Malachuck has already ordered signs to direct parking in the parking area. Nancy Bushika felt this matter should have gone before the Zoning Board. Jim Stimpson was frustrated that nobody contacted him directly. Jim Stimpson said he felt the root of the problem was that he allowed the business without a new permit because they already had a permit and he would do it again. Jean Kurpiel felt the parking was the main issue her board had and the new signs should resolve the safety issue. She did not expect to receive such an aggressive response from the attorney. Helen Fields was pleased with how easily the parties reached an agreement.

MOTION by Chris Warren to acknowledge that the Selectboard addressed, discussed and resolved the matter. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. James Stimpson said if someone really feels there is an unsafe condition from cars parking on the road, then the sheriff or state police should be called. Dave Tatro asked who the Administrative Officer answers to. Since the Selectboard appointed him, it would be the Selectboard. If there was a real emergency, Bill Levine as head of Emergency Management could be contacted.

3. At the attorney's recommendation to handle the unsafe parking issue immediately, the Selectboard amended their regular notice to include an emergency topic and gave emergency notice. Many were unhappy with the term and asked if the term urgent could be used in the future.

SEED SAVERS GROUP

Helen Fields reported on the Seed Savers activity over the past couple weeks, noting the professional tree pruning workshop, their work with the school children, the receipt of a grant from the Northeast Grassroots Environmental Fund for \$3,250.00, and the planting of the donated blueberry bushes. She noted that there are dog prints all over the fresh dirt and asked if people could keep their dogs from walking around the bushes. The Seed Savers need help watering the plants and continue to look for volunteers. They will be building a tool shed inside the tennis court soon.

COMPLAINT

1. Barbara Dolle stated that her neighbor's chickens roam freely and she is chasing them out of her yard on a daily basis. She asked for assistance from the Selectboard because of the health hazard with her young granddaughter playing outside. Jim Stimpson thought maybe this could fall under the no trespassing section of the law. Barbara Dolle provided the board with documentation on Vermont law. Vermont believes in free range and supports farming and agriculture so adding town regulations on livestock and poultry can be difficult. Helen Fields suggested spraying the chickens with a water hose to deter them from coming on her property. Jim Stimpson as Administrative Officer will talk to the neighbor and the Selectboard will invite her to the next meeting to discuss a resolution.
2. Creating a policy concerning livestock and poultry was discussed. Dan Potvin believes in the right to farm but does not believe that animals should be allowed to roam freely on other property.

MINUTES

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 7, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #27 \$ 6,273.70 payroll
- WARRANT #28 \$156,709.31 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of May.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The board reviewed the Notice of Intent (NOI) concerning the Municipal Roads General Permit which all towns are mandated by the state to obtain. There is a \$240.00 administrative fee due with the filing of the NOI, a \$400.00 application fee and a \$500.00 annual operating fee, both of which will be due by June 2019. MOTION by Chris Warren to sign the Notice of Intent and pay the administrative fee of \$240.00. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
The remaining two fees will be added to next year's budget. The state is beginning to offer grants to help towns pay for some of the work the state is requiring.
2. Dan Potvin spoke with Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission. He pushed for the town to get tax maps. Dan Potvin said our town has discussed the idea on numerous occasions and have several good reasons not to get tax maps.
3. Dave Tatro spoke with John Dupras at Trinity Engineering concerning his proposal to design a septic and water system at the garage. The total cost for his engineering services is \$2,900.00 with a \$1,450.00 retainer. Since the highway department can do the installation, the septic system will only cost about \$6,000.00 and a drilled well will be around \$6,000.00. The board could use the highway fund balance or money from the Future Needs Fund.
MOTION by Chris Warren to hire Trinity Engineering to design the system and pay the \$1,450.00 retainer and obtain estimates for the drilled well. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

If the funds are approved at town meeting, the system will be installed next year.

4. The highway department has used the new excavator and it works great. They have been ditching and repaired a culvert on Klondike Road.

5. Larry Arnold mowed for two days this week.

6. VELCO has started working on County Road and Dave Tatro encouraged the Selectboard to drive up and see what a great job they're doing.

7. Nancy Bushika noted that Klondike Road is in nice shape.

8. The Selectboard signed the registration renewal for the emergency management trailer.

RECYCLING

1. After reviewing the options offered by Karen Knaebel of the Agency of Natural Resources concerning the acceptance of e-waste, the board chose to keep the town's current practice. We will register with the state and continue to accept e-waste at the transfer station. Dave Tatro will label and date it and we will donate the items collected to the fire department fundraiser. The prices charged by the town will be reviewed in the fall.

MOTION by Chris Warren to choose Option 2 and keep our current practice of collection with the addition of labeling and dating. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Nancy Bushika attended the Alliance meeting last week. Ten town representatives and Trevor Mance from TAM were present. As part of the state's Act 148 mandate, asphalt shingles will have to be accepted next year. TAM will accept the shingles in Pownal and they will be ground up and resold. A pilot program to resurface roads with the ground up asphalt was suggested. They will experiment with flat roads and hills and see how it holds up. The state hasn't approved its full use yet and at this time the ground shingles can only be used on the shoulders of gravel roads. For now, asphalt shingles will continue to be accepted at the transfer station and will go in the demo bin. Chris Warren asked if this would increase the town's cost. Nancy Bushika said no, right now the Alliance has the funds and it is part of the dues we pay.

3. There have been no problems with the compost bins lately.

4. Dave Tatro has talked with Al McLain who should be doing the electrical wiring at the transfer station soon.

5. Green Mountain National Forest submitted a draft contract for the town's review. It is the standard contract they sign with towns whenever they are using a town road. Dave Tatro said they own a legal right-of-way and the contract is a courtesy. The draft contract was acceptable to the Selectboard.

WEBSITE

Chris Warren looked for feedback on the proposed policy he created. Nancy Bushika had some suggestions. She feels the website should only provide links to the school and library. Others thought links to Stamford-based business should be included. It will not be an advertisement, only a link to their website. Domain names were discussed. Nancy Bushika would like to provide notification when something new is added to the website if people choose to sign up for the email notice.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nancy Bushika asked about the status of the generator fumes. Bill Levine said Al McLain was consulting with the generator company.

DELINQUENT DOGS

There are only three dog owners who have not yet licensed their dogs with the town.

HEALTH OFFICER

Kurt Gamari as Health Officer inspected the property at 261 Main Road and determined that no public health hazard exists at this time.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Chris Warren to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Casella

Construction. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

SELECTBOARD MEETING

The July 5, 2018 Selectboard meeting is rescheduled to July 12, 2018 due to the fourth of July holiday.

NEMRC CONTRACT

Nancy Bushika reviewed the proposed NEMRC contract for assessor services beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 for \$5,000.00. Since it is difficult to finalize the grand list before June 30, 2018, it was suggested that a contract term ending in December might be better.

MOTION by Chris Warren to propose an 18 month contract term of July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019 with a 12 month contract thereafter. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Nancy Bushika will contact NEMRC. The assessor is pushing for a reappraisal and tax maps. The board agreed to begin looking at reappraisal firms and getting prices.

BEARS BEHIND SCHOOL

Stephen Greene was watering the tennis court gardens and saw two bear cubs behind the tennis courts. The principal will be made aware.

GRILLS AT SCHOOL

Dave Tatro asked if the grills behind the school near the tennis court could be used if a family wanted to have a picnic. The grills have been there for years. The Selectboard didn't see a problem with it.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. All dogs must be licensed with the town by April 1, 2018.
2. A free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 9 am to 11 a.m. in Stamford.
3. The Town Clerk's office hours are: Monday: closed; Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Wednesday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Thursday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.